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**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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RON CURRY  
SECRETARY

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DEPUTY SECRETARY

**CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

August 27, 2004

R. Paul Detwiler, Acting Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office  
Department of Energy  
P.O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-3090

Dr. Steven Warren, President  
Washington TRU Solutions LLC  
P.O. Box 2078  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221-5608

**RE: NMED APPROVAL OF THE LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY FINAL AUDIT  
REPORT, AUDIT A-03-27  
WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT  
EPA I.D. NUMBER NM4890139088**

Dear Mr. Detwiler and Dr. Warren:

On December 15, 2004, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) received the initial Audit Report of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Audit Number A-03-27 (**Audit Report**), from the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office (CBFO). CBFO and Washington TRU Solutions LLC (**the Permittees**) were required to submit this Audit Report under the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit as specified in Permit Condition II.C.2.c. The intended scope of this annual recertification audit was to ensure the continued adequacy, implementation, and effectiveness of the LANL TRU waste characterization processes for S5000 debris contact-handled waste relative to the requirements of the WIPP Permit.

On July 6, 2004, NMED provided the Permittees with comments on the initial Audit Report, noting that it was incomplete due to the exclusion of certain elements that had originally been within the scope of the audit. On July 14, 2004, NMED received the Permittees' response to comments in a transmittal dated July 12, 2004, which included a response to the comments, a revised Audit Report, and revised B6 checklist.

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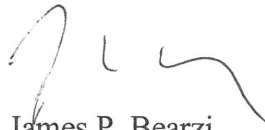


NMED representatives observed the LANL audit on September 22 – 26, 2003. NMED has examined the revised Audit Report for evidence of compliance with the requirements of Permit Conditions II.C.2 (Audit and Surveillance Program) and II.C.1 (Waste Analysis Plan [WAP]).

NMED concludes that this revised Audit Report demonstrates that LANL has adequately implemented the applicable characterization requirements of the WAP. Therefore, NMED approves the Permittees' Final Audit Report for LANL Audit A-03-27 for the certification of S5000 debris contact-handled waste, and amends the previous Audit Report approvals for Audits A-02-30, A-03-07, and A-03-24 issued by NMED on January 30, 2003, January 31, 2003, and July 2, 2004 respectively, to include all waste forms and processes evaluated by this annual recertification audit.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Steve Zappe at (505) 428-2517.

Sincerely,



James P. Bearzi  
Chief  
Hazardous Waste Bureau

JPB:soz

cc: Charles Lundstrom, NMED WWMD  
Steve Zappe, NMED HWB  
Tracy Hughes, NMED OGC  
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